

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A personal communications device which allows audible signals, comprising:
a receiver connected to receive control commands from a transmitter;
5 circuitry connected to said receiver to decode said control commands and check for a given code and connected to control at least one option in said communications device in response to receipt of said given code.
2. The communications device of Claim 1, wherein said one option which is deactivated is outgoing audible communications.
3. The communications device of Claim 1, wherein said one option which is deactivated is audible signals from said communications device.
4. The communications device of Claim 1, wherein when said circuitry no longer detects said given code, said option is re-enabled.
5. The communications device of Claim 1, wherein said communications device is a telephone or pager

6. A communications system, comprising:
 - a plurality of base stations, each capable of radio frequency communications with a plurality of personal communications devices;
 - 5 wherein ones of said plurality of personal communication devices each contain an ability to detect a predetermined command and in response to receipt of said predetermined command, to set the respective personal communication device to a mode in which no audible signals are allowed;
 - 10 wherein ones of said plurality of personal communications devices are not allowed to make or receive calls when under control of a first one of said base stations, based on the lack of said ability.
7. The communications system of Claim 6, wherein said first one of said base stations is a low-power base station.
8. A wireless communications system, comprising a short-range base station which controls wireless mobile communications within a limited range, wherein wireless communication devices within said limited range are either restricted to silent communications
 - 5 or, if not equipped for silent communications, blocked from all communications.

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9. The wireless communications system of Claim 8, wherein said wireless communications system is installed in a location chosen from the group comprising an airplane, a hospital, a theater, a restaurant, a court of law, an assembly hall, a board room, and a jury selection room.
10. A method of operating a wireless communications device, comprising the steps of:
 - (a.) checking for a known signal;
 - (b.) when said known signal is being received, automatically
5 configuring said communications device to a silent-communications-only mode;
 - (c.) when said known signal is not being received, allowing a user to select the communications mode desired.
11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said silent-communications-only mode disables outgoing verbal communications from said communications device.
12. The method of Claim 10, wherein said silent-communications-only mode disables ringers and other noise-making devices on said communications device.
13. The method of Claim 10, wherein said silent-communications-only mode allows keypad entry by the user which triggers transmission of pre-recorded messages.

14. A method of operating a wireless communications system, comprising the step of controlling wireless communications within a known area, wherein wireless communication devices within said known area are either blocked or restricted to silent communications, depending on the capabilities of said communications devices.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein said step of controlling wireless communications is done in more than one format on more than one channel.